

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, ever since the events of September 11, people in communities large and small have looked for ways to show their support for the victims of terrorism and to express the pride they have in this great country.

I rise today to share the story of an inspiring, patriotic project undertaken in a community in Mississippi's First Congressional District. The students and residents of Jumpertown, in Prentiss County, Mississippi, chose a unique way to share their words of support and patriotism by including them in a quilt. I was honored to be asked to deliver it to President Bush.

Mrs. Nancy Johnson, a teacher at the school, conceived the idea, which quickly became more than a school project. It was enthusiastically embraced by the entire community.

Mrs. Betty Sue Geno started the process by cutting cloth squares, which were then distributed to each class, kindergarten through 12th grade, in the 365-member student body at Jumpertown School. The office staff and lunchroom ladies also participated. Each group was given the opportunity to create and decorate the individual squares.

When all pieces were completed, Mrs. Penny Padgett designed and sewed the quilt top. Then the squares were turned over to a group of ladies in the community who met at the Barksdale Parents Center for an old-fashioned quilting bee.

The ladies who put it all together were Mrs. Ruby Smart, Mrs. Sue Nell Searcy, Mrs. Mary Odle, and Mrs. Louise Robinson. They were assisted by teachers and staff members from Jumpertown School, including Lisa Cousar, Eleshia Jumper, and Martha Mitchell.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to be part of a patriotic ceremony on November 12, the day after Veterans Day, to present the quilt officially. The entire school assembled in the gymnasium, along with many people from the community, to pay tribute to Prentiss County veterans and to celebrate this very special project.

Prentiss County superintendent of education Judy Perrigo and Jumpertown principal Kenneth Chisholm took part in the program. It included patriotic musical selections from students Kayla Robinson and Megan Downs and teacher Norma Jo Jones. Sixth-grader Channing Durham also read a poem he had written.

In her remarks, Mrs. Johnson said, "Much as our Nation has come together, our community has pulled together on this quilt. We are sending this to the President with the hope that he knows that in Jumpertown our prayers, our thoughts, and our support are with him and the country."

This project in Jumpertown, Mississippi, Mr. Speaker, is a reflection of

the American spirit which has sustained our Nation during these difficult times. I proudly accepted this quilt on behalf of the entire United States Congress, and I look forward to taking it to President Bush at the White House.

#### BORDER POINTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday evening after returning from a day and a half visit with the Canadian parliamentarians and government leaders in Ottawa, I spoke briefly about the importance of our mutual trade and our mutual concerns about terrorism.

It is important when we are discussing antiterrorism efforts on our north and south borders that we not forget the importance of trade. The trade crossing just the Ambassador Bridge between Windsor, Ontario, and Detroit, Michigan, equals all U.S.-Japan trade.

That said, Americans as well as Canadians and Mexicans are concerned about the movement of terrorists and other illegal activity along our borders. It is not just about terrorists and possible terrorists. Most Americans have been aware of the narcotics problems along the U.S.-Mexican border over the last decade. Andean cocaine and heroin move into the U.S. through Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. The northern border does not have the fences and patrols that we have along the south border.

Now, as drug patterns change in the United States, Canada has become a major narcotics conduit to the United States, as well: Ecstasy, coming mostly from the Netherlands, across into the U.S. from Canada; ephedrine and chemical precursors for methamphetamines, meth, for Ecstasy and other synthetic drugs are moving through Canada. These are in fact our fastest growing drug problems.

Furthermore, potent marijuana from British Columbia, called B.C. Bud, and from Quebec, called Quebec Gold, have potencies similar to cocaine. In fact, Quebec Gold sells for about the same price as cocaine in New York City. But it is important for Americans to understand two basic points: one, it is our consumption that has resulted in our hemispheric neighbors turning into transit and drug-producing nations; and, B, in the case of Canada, the drug-trafficking, like the movement of terrorists, goes both ways.

This does not change the need for border control. The borders are often our best chance to catch drug traffickers and terrorists before they lose themselves within our free nations; thus, we have to work on border control.

So how can we keep our trade, tourism, and shared work forces moving

with relative ease, and also protect our nations? It is not a matter of Canada, Mexico, or the U.S. dictating to the other nations about what must be done, but this is a fact: the United States is toughening its laws. If our neighbors do not, as well, trade will suffer.

Changes must include numerous things, including more shared intelligence information among trained professional personnel. The personnel has to be trained so we do not have compromises when we share information, like happened with the Mexican drug czar who was living in an apartment that was owned by the cartel.

The ability to collect intelligence information. We have to have laws that are flexible enough to allow us to gather the intelligence, or we cannot allow the movement across the borders as free as it has been in the past.

The ability to arrest, detain, and prosecute violators, and to keep track of high risks. This is what we are doing in our terrorism bill; and this is what we need from our neighbors, if we are not going to have tighter controls on the border.

The ability to extradite criminals to the U.S. This has been a sticking point for many years with numerous countries, for example, in Colombia where the drug-corrupted President would not allow extradition, and it became a place for them to hide out. It became a process where we in fact cut off trade and assistance to Colombia. It is now a problem with al Qaeda members from Spain, which does not want to send them to us because of our death penalty.

Extradition of those who murder Americans is essential for justice, but also for defense and for protection and deterrence. Terrorists and drug lords would rather face soft justice than U.S. justice.

In Holland, narcotics traffickers find cover. If someone in Holland attempts to escape or escapes from prison, there is no penalty. It is assumed that that is a natural thing, to want to escape from prison. Is it any wonder that people try to hide in Holland, with those kinds of laws? No wonder drug lords and terrorists try to hide out in other nations that do not work with our extradition.

We need also passenger manifest lists, as our Customs Director, Mr. Bonner, has insisted; and we need them now. We cannot have open airports if we do not know who the passengers are coming in, and it is something that needs to be done immediately, to the degree that we can all, including the U.S. And we, the U.S., after all, missed the September 11 terrorists, and they were here, not at the other places. So this is not just about pointing fingers while we live in a glass house. We know we need to make the changes, but so do our neighbors.

We in the U.S. are building a different house. It is not dramatic, but it

is going to have major adjustments. If our neighbors do so also, and Canada clearly is working rapidly to do so as we speak, because they are moving their antiterrorism and immigration packages in the next 2 weeks, we can make this.

The laws will be different but similar, with our neighbors devoting resources to their own airports and borders not adjacent to the U.S. For example, the southern border with Mexico and Central America, if we are sure about that border, then we do not have to be as careful on our border; or if the airports coming into Vancouver and Halifax have protections similar to ours, then we do not need to be as tight on the north border.

Furthermore, we need to work towards joint efforts with Canada and Mexico on our joint borders. For example with Canada, we can look for cooperation on truck sites. We can look for shared border crossings where we do not need as much. I believe we can accomplish this with both countries by working together.

#### ON WORLD AIDS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, December 1, marks the commemoration of World AIDS Day. In my district, I will be holding a special event in support of this occasion.

As our distinguished minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), stated at the World AIDS Day briefing held earlier today in the Capitol by the African Ambassadors Group and the International AIDS Trust, the issue of HIV/AIDS, he said, is the "moral issue of our time." It affects everyone and everything.

Mr. Speaker, we must leave no stone unturned to bring an end to this pandemic. We must find a way to create an endowment of funding to assist the war against the spread of this disease, both domestically and internationally.

We must increase and accelerate our financial support to the U.N. Secretary General's AIDS Trust Fund, and we must champion our own colleagues in their quest to craft a comprehensive approach to help alleviate the appalling suffering in Africa, as represented by the bill of my distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), to establish a Marshall Plan for Africa.

Mr. Speaker, it is vitally important that we focus on ways and means to strengthen infrastructures and services that can help combat the impact of AIDS. HIV/AIDS, after all, is a multidimensional issue that has long-range development implications. It is not

just a matter of clinical treatment and curative measures. We must address the issues of poverty and debt relief, so that the poorest countries can apply more of their revenues to the basic human rights and human needs of their people.

We must help and encourage greater gender equity, so women and men can address their sexual dialogue on a more equal basis. We must achieve greater understanding of the cultural values and modes of behavior that undercut safe-sex practices that lead to the spread of this pernicious disease.

Finally, we must increase our financial support to develop activities and programs that can lay a more sustainable foundation for community empowerment and economic livelihood.

Only on this basis will communities around the world, through NGOs and public-private partnerships, be able to find the will to wage this war against AIDS. Our local event will bring together researchers, doctors, and other health professionals, as well as heads of foundations and pharmaceutical companies, together with community leaders to continue to raise support for combatting HIV/AIDS in the 37th district and in the region.

It is our hope that similar commemorative activities across America and around the world will highlight the leadership being brought to bear on this critical concern of our time. Just as we are building a powerful coalition to fight terrorism on a global scale, we can do no less when it comes to HIV/AIDS. Forty million people living with this dreadful disease is one too many.

#### COMMEMORATING WORLD AIDS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week we will commemorate, celebrate, embrace, and share love on World AIDS Day, December 1, 2001. Today I had the pleasure and honor of being with the African Ambassadors Group and the International AIDS Trust to commemorate that for the House and Senate.

It is important that policy leaders stand up and be counted as we move forward to continue the fight against the devastation of HIV/AIDS worldwide.

Let me thank Sandy Thurman and, as well, all of the African ambassadors, and Ambassador Sheila Suzuli of South Africa, who gave very eloquent comments and remarks about the waging of the war in sub-Saharan Africa.

Let me also acknowledge my friends with the Names Project in Houston. I will join them tomorrow in celebrating and commemorating the loss of lives, and as well, the lives of those who are still living with AIDS.

As we do that tomorrow evening at the de Menil Museum, we do it together, embracing and noting the wonderment of the lives that are no longer with us but recommitting ourselves to fighting against the devastation of HIV/AIDS.

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I say congratulations and my best wishes to the NAMES Project of Houston and all the other fighters in my community who are advocating against HIV/AIDS and working to provide prevention dollars and treatment dollars throughout the entire city, which includes of course the Donald Watkins Foundation.

September 11 will live forever in our hearts and minds as one of the most tragic and horrific acts of terrorism on our country. We have all joined forces to fight back against this terrible evil. Foreign countries have also responded and lent their support to help combat terrorism. It has proven that by joining together, any challenge can be overcome.

While we have focused our attention to addressing the immediate needs of the survivors and families who lost loved ones, increased security, and the economy, we must refocus our attention as well to the global pandemic that has claimed over 29 million lives. The same strategy we apply in our fight against this terrible, terrible dread of terrorism, we must continue the battle, however, in our fight to beat HIV/AIDS around the Nation. This is a global issue and everyone's problem, nationwide and worldwide.

The Global Health Alliance released a report yesterday, entitled "Pay Now or Pay More Later: An Independent Report on the Response to the Global HIV/AIDS Pandemic." Today, the African Ambassadors Group and International AIDS Trust sponsored a briefing on refocusing and reaffirming our commitment to AIDS. As we approach World AIDS Day on December 1, we must stand strong and continue to fight and raise awareness.

Forty million people around the world live with HIV/AIDS or will be living with it by the end of 2001, adults and children, 28 million of which live in sub-Saharan Africa alone.

Since the first HIV case 20 years ago, over 60 million persons have been infected, and over 20 million have already died from AIDS. The spread continues, especially in poor and developing countries.

In Africa, there are an estimated 11,000 new infections per day; and during 2001, 2.3 million Africans will die from HIV/AIDS. Only 10 percent of the world's population lives south of the Sahara, but the region is home to two-thirds of the world's HIV/AIDS. We must not tolerate such devastation, and it has suffered more than 80 percent of all AIDS deaths in sub-Saharan Africa.